

Remarks

All pending claims stand rejected as indefinite, under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and Claim 4 is objected to. The amendments presented above obviate those issues.

It is to be noted that Claim 1 has been amended *only* to meet the formal matter discussed in section 7 of the Office Action, and to remove any doubt that it is the combination of a book and a holding device that is being claimed (consistent with the Examiner's assumption). No further searching or substantive consideration by the Examiner is called for as a result of the changes made, and there should therefore be no question that the claim amendments presented are to be entered.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 8-11 also stand rejected having been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art over the newly cited Iizuka reference (WO 03/073888). It is respectfully submitted that the instant claims are clearly patentable over the art.

Enclosed is a copy of European Patent Specification No. EP 1 481 610 A1, which is believed to be an accurate English translation of Iizuka International Patent Specification No. WO 03/073888. This "A" document is a republication, in English, of the entire International application, as filed. It will be noted that the bibliographic data on the published European application confirms the International Publication Number as WO 2003/073888.

The Examiner will note that EP 1 481 610 A1 describes a book holder having an elongate member 1 to which a rotatable member 2 is secured by a shaft 6 (see

Figure 2). The shaft 6 projects perpendicularly from the elongate member 1, and can be slid along a slot 7 in the rotatable member 2. When the shaft 6 is located in a hole 13 at one end of the slot 7 the member 2 can be rotated about the axis of the shaft 6.

Figure 1 of EP 1 481 610 A1 shows that the elongate member 1 is provided, at opposite ends, with two folding legs or "pedestals" 4. Column 2, lines 39 to 44, states:

The pedestals 4 are extended to the right and left "open" positions from the ends of the horizontal member, and the bookstand is put on a desk. The lower end of the rotatable member and the right and left pedestals are in contact with the desk so that the bookstand can stand diagonally. (Figure 3).

Figure 4 of EP 1 481 610 A1 discloses a modification which is described in column 2, at lines 48 to 57, as follows:

The rotatable member has continuous teeth 8 on its lateral faces. The teeth 8 engage with claws 14 of the holder 9 so that the holder can support the crossing portion of the horizontal member and the rotatable member. Since the holder 9 fixes the rotatable member and horizontal member, as shown in Figure 4, the bookstand of the present invention can be attached to an arm 10. By attaching the bookstand to the arm 10, the book is supported in the air without occupying any area on the desk. (emphasis added)

Lines 15 and 16 in column 2 state that "shaft 6 is provided at the center of the horizontal member 1", and it is clearly intended that the pivot shaft 9 is fixed to the member 1. Furthermore, the passage quoted above states that the holder 9 fixes the rotatable member 2 and the horizontal member 1, preventing sliding, or any other

relative movement between the two members, by virtue of the fact that the claws 14 embrace the member 1 and engage with the teeth 8 on opposite sides of the rotatable member 2. Figure 4 appears to show that the arm 10 is inserted through the holder 10. There is, in fact, no disclosure that the arm 10 is pivotally inserted through the holder 10. It is noted nevertheless that, even if such a pivotal connection were to exist the pivot axis would extend approximately transverse to the horizontal member 1.

In rejecting the claims, as defining subject matter that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, the Examiner refers to "a support leg (10)," which he says has "one end joined to the elongate member by means of a slider (2) ... and the support leg is rotatably connected to, the slider and is pivotally connected to the slide." Applicant respectfully refutes that Iizuka discloses, or suggests, that the support leg 10 is connected to the elongate member in such a manner.

It will be recalled that the claim upon which the present official action is based reads:

said support leg (40) is of elongate shape with one end joined to the elongate member by means of a slider (63) which is slidably engaged with the elongate member (100) for movement longitudinally of the elongate member such that the position of the support leg can be adjusted along the length of the elongate member, and the support leg is rotatably connected to the slider (63) for rotation about an axis (E) which is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the

elongate member (100) and is pivotally connected to the slider (63) such that the support leg is angularly adjustable relative to the platform (14) about an axis (D) which is substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the elongate member (100) (emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that the portions of the claim that are emphasized here by underlining are not disclosed in or suggested by Iizuka.

As previously explained, the holder 9 of Iizuka is clearly incapable of movement longitudinally of the elongate member. And insofar as there is any possibility of pivotal movement between the arm 10 and the holder 9, the pivot axis is transverse to the elongate member, not substantially parallel to its longitudinal direction.

It is further submitted that neither the rotatable member 2, nor either of the pedestals 4, meets the requirements of the support leg, as claimed by Applicant. The rotatable member is not connected to the elongate member via a slider, and it does not meet the requirement of rotation about an axis lying substantially parallel to the elongate member. Similarly, no sliders are provided with the pedestals 4, and no rotation about an axis lying parallel to the elongate member is envisaged.

While Applicant recognizes that functionality is not necessarily a determining factor in claim construction, it is nevertheless significant that the device disclosed by Iizuka is intended for use in a manner that is completely different from that in which the device of the present combination is employed. Applicant's book holder is capable of holding and stably supporting a wide range of books, resting upon a variety of

irregular surfaces, and it does so by employing an arrangement of features that is unique and is not taught in or suggested by the prior art. More particularly, the device of the instant invention includes a support leg that is capable of being placed into a range of positions, which allow books of various sizes and weights to be stably supported without being held by hand. By suitably adjusting the leg, using the novel features defined, a book that is held open by the device can be stably supported with its lower edge resting on a surface and with the support leg (40) extending between the elongate member (100) and a suitable position on that surface. Such adjustment is uniquely achieved by means of a slider (63), which is slidably engaged with the elongate member (100) for movement longitudinally of the elongate member such that the position of the support leg can be adjusted along the length of the elongate member.

Furthermore, the support leg is rotatably connected to the slider (63), for rotation about an axis (E) which is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the elongate member (100), and it is pivotally connected to the slider (63) such that the support leg is angularly adjustable relative to the platform (14) about an axis (D) which is substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the elongate member (100). This provides the leg with an enormous range of adjustment in angle and position, such that a stable support tripod can always be obtained with the bottom edge of the book, regardless of the nature of the surface on which the book is supported.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all claims of the instant application define an invention that is novel and patentable over the prior art. Entry of the amendments presented, withdrawal of the rejections, and passage of the application to allowance, are believed to be manifestly in order. Such actions are earnestly solicited.

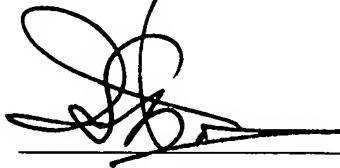
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, IRA S. DORMAN, hereby certify that this Amendment In Response to Office Action, and a copy of EP 1 481 610, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed as set forth on the first page hereof, on April 2, 2009.



cc: Stephen A. Craske, Esq.
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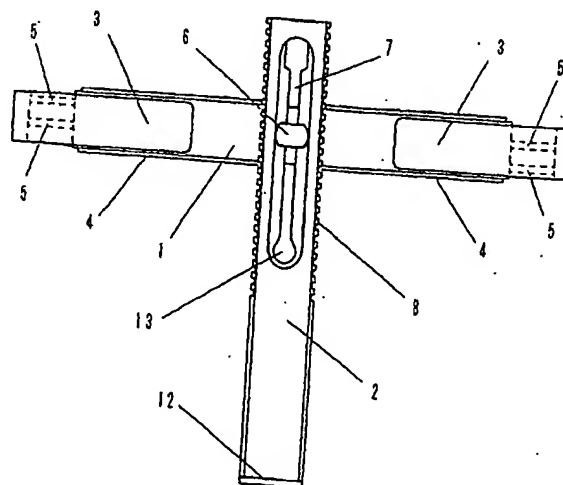
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(54) **PORTABLE BOOKSTAND**

(57) The base of a conventional bookstand on which to support a book is a rectangular base having an area substantially as large as an opened book whereas the invention employs a method of placing a book on a criss-cross form defined by a horizontal base and a vertical base crossing each other. The horizontal and vertical bases are in the form of elongated rectangles of substantially the same size, and the vertical base placed on the horizontal base is supported for slide turning move-

ment around a support shaft of the horizontal base. On the right and left sides of the horizontal base, the right and left side pages of a book are held down by transparent page binders having guide rods slidable in guide grooves formed inside the horizontal base. An opening/closing stand is provided on the back surface of the horizontal base. The bookstand of the invention has the four parts laminatable in the plane of the horizontal base so as to reduce the size.

FIG. 2



Description

holder.

Technical FieldBest Mode For Carrying Out the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a foldable, portable bookstand.

Background Art

[0002] Conventional bookstands, even if they are called "portable", have a large book mounting plate. Thus, no conventional bookstands are compact enough to carry by hand.

[0003] In view of this, the present invention provides a foldable bookstand having a novel mechanism. This mechanism makes the book mounting plate and page mounting clips more compact than any conventional bookstand so that the bookstand is easily carried by hand.

Disclosure of the Invention

[0004] The book mounting plate of the conventional bookstand is a rectangular plate of a size substantially as large as an opened book. The bookstand of the present invention has a horizontal member and a rotatable member crossing each other to support a book. The rotatable member and horizontal member have substantially the same size, having an elongated rectangular shape. The rotatable member superposed on the horizontal member can rotate about a support shaft provided at the center of the horizontal member. The rotatable member can also slide relative to the horizontal member, and the sliding movement is limited by the support shaft.

[0005] The horizontal member has transparent binders at right and left ends thereof to clamp right and left pages of a book. Each binder has guide rods that slide long grooves formed in the horizontal member. Right and left pedestals are provided at a back face of the horizontal member such that the pedestals can pivot and extend from a retracted position.

[0006] The above described four parts of the bookstand of the present invention can be folded within an area of the horizontal member. Thus, the bookstand can become very compact.

Brief Description of the Drawings[0007]

Figure 1 is a front view of a bookstand;
Figure 2 illustrates a plan view of the bookstand when horizontal and rotatable members extend perpendicularly;
Figure 3 illustrates a lateral view of the bookstand when placed on a desk; and
Figure 4 illustrates the bookstand attached to a

[0008] Figure 1 is a front view of a portable bookstand of the present invention in a folded condition. In Figure 1, four parts of the bookstand (i.e., a horizontal member 1, a rotatable member 2, transparent binders 3 and pedestals 4) are sequentially stacked.

[0009] Two parallel guide rods 5 are fixed to each transparent binder 3, and slide along grooves formed in the horizontal member. Thus, the transparent binders can move to right and left positions (i.e., to an open position and a closed position).

[0010] A shaft 6 is provided at the center of the horizontal member 1. The rotatable member 2 has a groove 7 which extends in the upper half of the rotatable member. The groove of the rotatable member 2 slidably engages with the shaft 6 of the horizontal member 1. In order to prevent disengagement between the rotatable member and the horizontal member, the head of the shaft 6 is greater than the groove of the rotatable member 2.

[0011] The groove 7 of the rotatable member 2 has an end hole 13 larger than the width of the groove 7 so that the rotatable member 2 can rotate when the center of the rotatable member 2 matches the center of the horizontal member 1. When the rotatable member 2 rotates 90 degrees, the groove 7 can slide, with the shaft 6 being engaged with the groove 7. (Figure 2)

[0012] When the bookstand of the present invention has to support a book, the transparent binders 3 are pulled to the right and left and the rotatable member is rotated 90 degrees so that the rotatable member extends perpendicularly to the horizontal member. A book 11 can be placed on the crisscross structure of the rotatable member and horizontal member, and right and left pages of the book are pressed down by the transparent binders. The pedestals 4 are extended to the right and left "open" positions from the ends of the horizontal member, and the bookstand is put on the desk. The lower end of the rotatable member and the right and left pedestals are in contact with the desk so that the bookstand can stand diagonally. (Figure 3).

[0013] The rotatable member 2 has a stopper 12 to support the lower end of the book at the lower end thereof.

[0014] The rotatable member has continuous teeth 8 on its lateral faces. The teeth 8 engage with claws 14 of the holder 9 so that the holder can support the crossing portion of the horizontal member and the rotatable member. Since the holder 9 fixes the rotatable member and horizontal member, as shown in Figure 4, the bookstand of the present invention can be attached to an arm 10.

[0015] By attaching the bookstand to the arm 10, the book is supported in the air without occupying any area on the desk. The bookstand of the present invention can be used by a person in bed.

Industrial Applicability

[0016] The bookstand becomes greatly compact and easy to carry. This significantly improves usefulness of the bookstand.

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[0017] By using the bookstand, a person does not have to use hands to hold a book. The person therefore can use hands to only operate, for example, a computer. The person can concentrate on reading. The person can read a book in a desired posture. This prevents eye fatigue, headache, sholderache, etc.

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Claims

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1. A portable bookstand wherein a horizontal member (1) and a rotatable member (2) have an elongated rectangular shape of substantially the same size, and the rotatable member superposed on the horizontal member can rotate and slide about a shaft (6) provided at the center of the horizontal member,

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wherein transparent binders (3) for pressing down right and left pages of a book are fixed to guide rods (5) which move along grooves in the horizontal member (1), so that the transparent binders can extend and retract in the right and left directions of the horizontal member, and

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wherein pedestals (4) are provided on a back face of the horizontal member such that the pedestals can move between an open position and a closed position.

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2. The rotatable member (2) has continuous teeth (8) on its lateral faces.

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FIG. 1

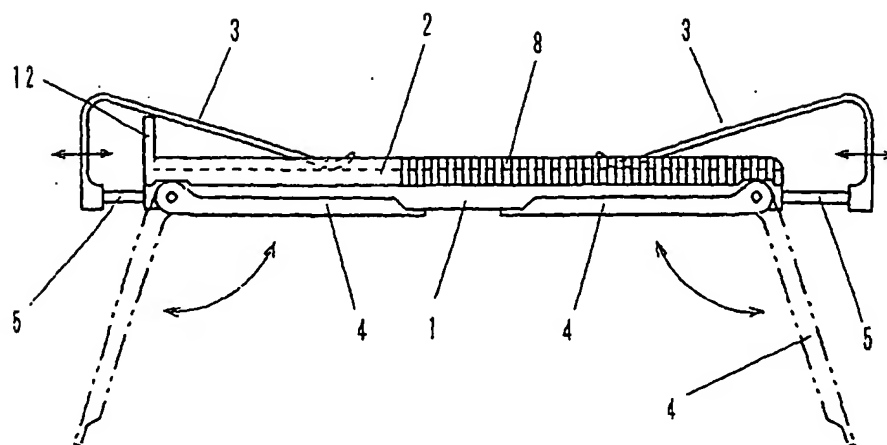


FIG. 2

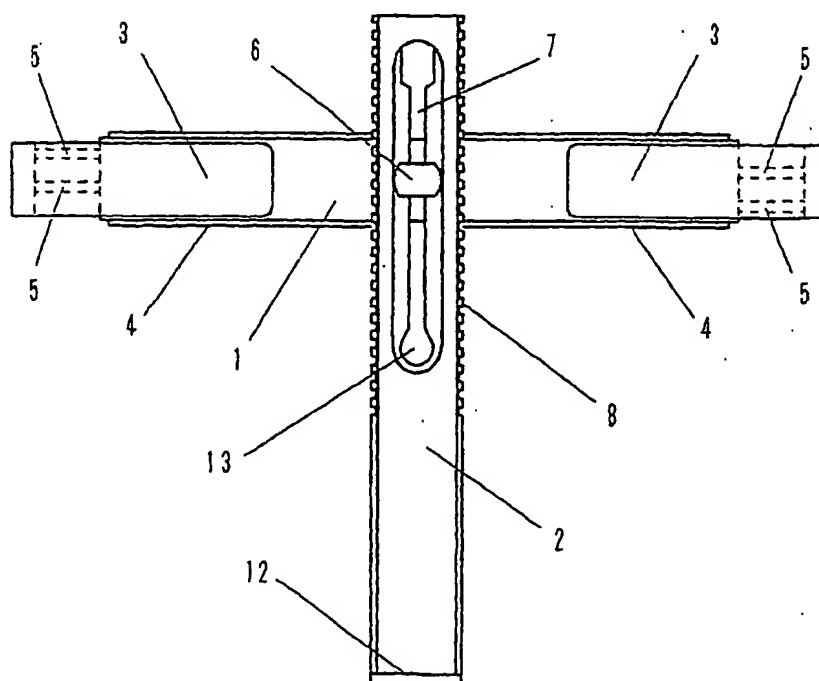


FIG. 3

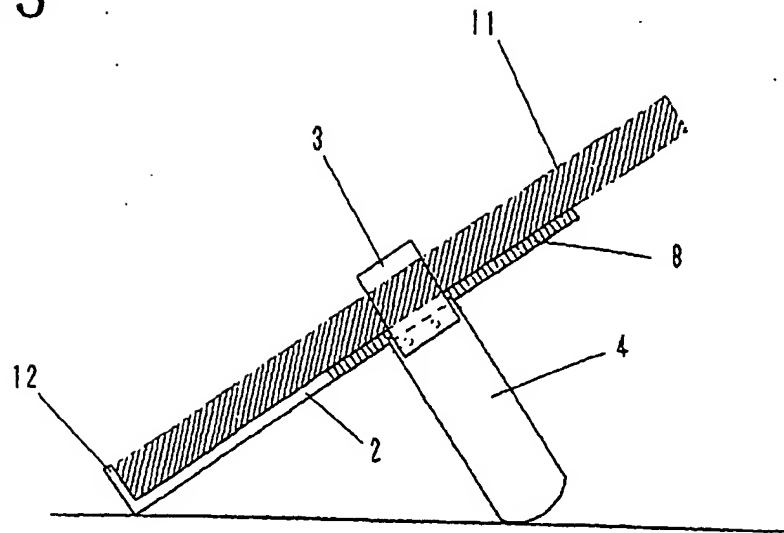
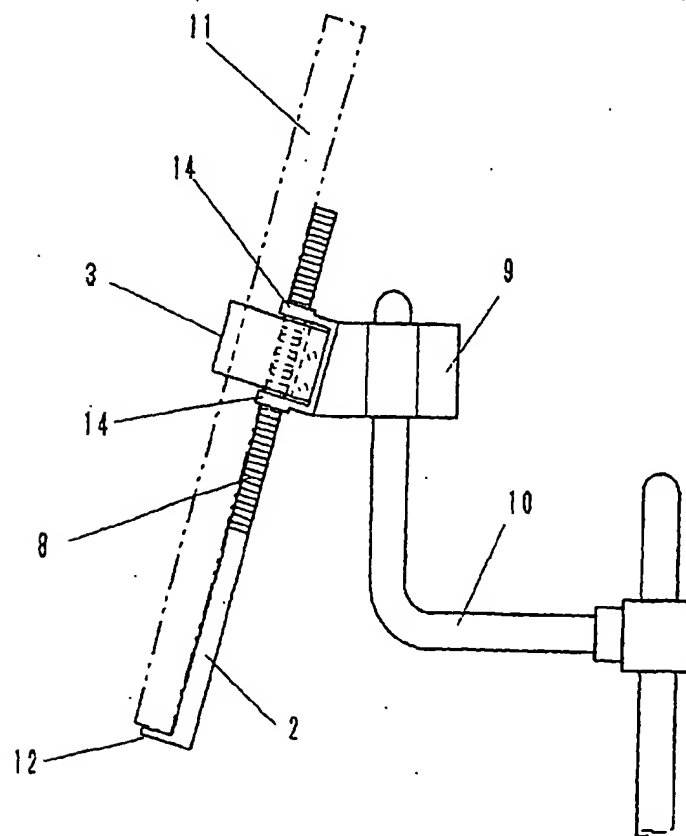


FIG. 4



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/02468

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl. ⁷ A47B23/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl. ⁷ A47B23/00		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2003 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2003 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2003		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 179098/1977 (Laid-open No. 102266/1979) (Hisashi MATSUHASHI), 19 July, 1979 (19.07.79), Full text; Figs. 1 to 7 (Family: none)	1, 2
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 21174/1990 (Laid-open No. 112030/1991) (Masashi EZAKI), 15 November, 1991 (15.11.91), Full text; Figs. 1 to 5 (Family: none)	1, 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 03 June, 2003 (03.06.03)		Date of mailing of the international search report 17 June, 2003 (17.06.03)
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